

### *Abstract of the Disclosure*

An arrangement for allowing “hands-free” access to DTMF-controlled systems, such as one’s voice mail messaging systems, utilizes a speech-to-DTMF tone application that monitors the communication between the user and the DTMF-controlled system. A  
5 speech recognition unit is utilized to retrieve certain voice commands (e.g., “next”, “skip”, “repeat”, “forward”, etc.) when uttered by the user. The application then translates the received commands into the proper DTMF tone sequence used by the DTMF-controlled system and transmits the DTMF tones to the system. The application is particularly useful in the cell phone environment and avoids the necessity of the user to  
10 constantly switch between using the keypad and listening to messages/commands from the system.